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Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services

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Extensions of country programmes

Summary

The present note contains information on the extensions of the country programmes for Lebanon, Papua New Guinea, Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen. First-time extensions of country programmes up to one year are approved by the Executive Director, and presented to the Executive Board for information. All other requests for extensions of country programmes are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen, as presented in table 1.

The Executive Board may wish to approve the second one-year extension of the country programme for Lebanon, the fourth one-year extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic and the two-year extension of the country programme for Papua New Guinea, as presented in table 2.

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Table 1.

Extensions of country programmes approved by the Executive Director

Country	*Original programme period*	*Period approved for extension*	*Reason for extension*
Somalia	2011-2015	2016	In 2016, development programming will be increasingly prominent in Somalia. The United Nations Integrated Strategic Framework for Somalia (2014-2016) is aligned to the Somali Compact, which is expected to be operational by 2015/2016 and covers five peacebuilding and State building goals. The United Nations country team (UNCT) decided to seek a one-year extension of the current country programmes to fully align them with the national development framework and cycle.
United Republic of Tanzania	2011-2015	July 2015 to June 2016 (one year)	The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania is undertaking a number of processes that will significantly influence its national priorities for the post-2015 development agenda, as the existing poverty reduction strategy and national development plan will end by mid-2016. The Government and the UNCT agreed on a one-year extension of the current United Nations Development Assistance Plan to align it with the national planning and review processes.
Yemen	2012-2015	2016	Over the past year, Yemen has witnessed major political developments, with demonstrations gripping the capital and resulting in violence. In response to the ongoing political and humanitarian crisis, the Government extended the Transitional Plan for Stabilization and Development. The Government and the UNCT agreed to extend its United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for one year in order to align it with the Transitional Plan.

Table 2.

Country programme extensions for which the approval of the Executive Board is sought

Country	*Original programme period*	*Period proposed for extension*	*Reason for extension*		
			In-country development	*United Nations harmonization*	*Implementation or other issues*
Lebanon	2012-2014 2015 (first extension)	2016 (second one-year extension)	The Syrian refugee crisis has exacerbated the vulnerabilities of already fragile Lebanese state institutions, and also affected development programming processes of the United Nations system in Lebanon. The current context requires coordinated efforts to bridge humanitarian assistance with long-term development to mitigate socio-economic impacts of the Syrian crisis. In response to the growing need for stabilization due to the prolonged crisis, the Government of Lebanon and the international community have developed a Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) for 2015-2016.	The Government of Lebanon and the UNCT agreed to extend the current UNDAF for one more year. This will allow UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP to adjust their programmes to better respond to the humanitarian crisis. The LCRP will be adopted as a framework for the humanitarian response; it focuses on the protection and material needs of refugees; basic assistance and community needs in the most affected areas, as well as institutional and economic strengthening.	Major interventions identified under the LCRP include strengthening technical capacities to deliver high-quality reproductive health services; empowering young people to make informed reproductive health choices; supporting national capacities for generating high-quality data to inform policy making and programme development; strengthening technical capacities for advancing gender equality and empowerment of women; and developing capacities of NGOs to better address protection of young girls and respond to gender-based violence.
Papua New Guinea	2012-2015	2016-2017 (two-year extension)	Papua New Guinea is experiencing a volatile political environment, with challenges to the leadership of the incumbent Prime Minister and a weakened presence of the opposition in Parliament.	The Government requested UNFPA, UNDP and UNICEF to extend the current UNDAF until 2017 in order to harmonize it with the two-year extension of the country's Medium-Term Development Plan 2011-2015. In light of the Government's request, the UNCT decided to extend the UNDAF for two years, until 31 December 2017.	The Government extended the Medium-Term Development Plan 2011-2015 in order to incorporate emerging national strategies, in particular the National Strategy for Responsible Sustainable Development. A two-year extension of the current country programme will allow sufficient time to develop the next country programme in consultation with all stakeholders based on the emerging national priorities.

Country	*Original programme period*	*Period proposed for extension*	*Reason for extension*		
			In-country development	*United Nations harmonization*	*Implementation or other issues*
Syrian Arab Republic	2007-2011 2012 (first extension) 2013 (second extension) 2014 (third extension)	2015 (fourth one-year extension)	The Syrian Arab Republic has been experiencing a protracted complex humanitarian emergency for more than four years. The number of violence-affected people has reached 12.2 million, including 7.6 million internally displaced persons. Increased migration into neighbouring countries further undermines regional stability. In response to the growing need for stabilization, the Syrian Government and the United Nations system are drafting in 2015 a medium-term strategic framework for United Nations assistance, to start in 2016.	The United Nations system is focusing on humanitarian appeals and short-term response planning. The United Nations agencies are requesting extensions of their current country programmes until the strategic plan for United Nations assistance takes effect in January 2016. Like the other United Nations agencies, the UNFPA seeks to extend its country programme for a fourth year, to bridge the preparations of the new country programme, which will be submitted to the Executive Board at its first regular session in January 2016.	While focusing assistance and service delivery to populations affected by the violence, the extension of the country programme will enable UNFPA to (a) strengthen and support national capacity to deliver critical reproductive health services; and (b) expand partnerships with women-oriented and community-based organizations, to improve access of affected populations to sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services, including psychosocial support to the most vulnerable populations.